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JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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Vols feted at Lay Missions Conference

By Tony Martin
Associate Editor

The Lay Missions Conference and Banquet, an annual event in conjunction with the Mississippi Baptist Convention, was held October 28 at First Church, Jackson.

Several conferences were held during the afternoon, including sessions dealing with agricultural missions led by Jim Whitehead, president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

Agricultural Fellowship; Campers on Mission, led by Rickey Youngblood, vice president of Campers on Mission; construction missions, led by John Henry, president of the construction ministry; educational missions, led by Ralph Brewer, president of educational missions; volunteers in missions, led by Larry Tate, state coordinator for Volunteers in Missions; literacy missions, led by Paula Smith, consultant for the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU); and restorative justice, led by Neron Smith, consultant in the MBCB Church Planting Department.

Pure Gospel, a music group from First Church, Madison, provided worship for the banquet. The banquet included a special citation from Sandy Martin, regional coordinator of the Mississippi River Ministry. Martin reported that during 10 years of work in the Delta and other areas along the Mississippi River, more than 10,000 volunteers had worked to bring the love of Christ to the area, resulting in more than 3,000 professions of faith.

"Because of the hard work of Mississippi Baptists, Mississippi has been designated as a

national ministry site," Martin said. Martin presented a commemorative plaque which was accepted by David Michel, MBCB associate executive director, for missions strategy, on behalf of all Mississippi Baptists.

Kay Cassibry, executive director-treasurer of Mississippi WMU, presented Barbara Evans, member of First Church, Wiggins, with the 2002 Volunteer Award for her work worldwide as a missions volunteer.

Cassibry and Jim Didlake, director of men's ministry for MBCB, reflected on 25 years of disaster relief in Mississippi.

Cassibry and Didlake shared poignant and humorous vignettes of experiences in Mississippi Baptist's disaster relief work.

"Who would have thought that in 1978 four guys who went to Utica to cook and serve hamburgers would grow to where we are today?" Didlake asked.



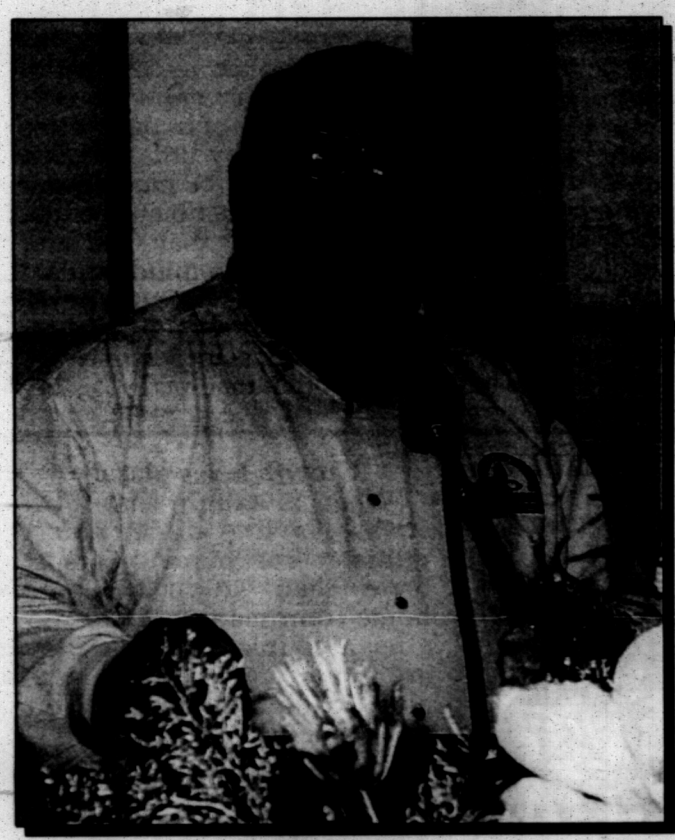
HEART OF A VOLUNTEER — Barbara Evans (left), member of First Church, Wiggins, received the Volunteer Award from Kay Cassibry, executive director of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union, for her work as a lay volunteer in several different venues worldwide. (Photo by Tony Martin)

the Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering, which funds disaster relief work as well as other MBCB ministries with an immediate goal of \$1.5 million set for the coming year's work.

Mickey Caison, manager of the adult volunteers mobilization unit at the North American Mission Board (NAMB) in Atlanta, closed the program by offering a tribute to the people involved in disaster relief work. Caison, who is responsible for overall disaster relief ministry for Southern Baptists, stated, "Mississippi Baptists are a SWAT team for me," referring to the quick disaster relief response

Cassibry shared several stories of the ministries in New York City following the attacks on 9/11. Michel reminded the attendees of the importance of

Mississippi volunteers have put together over the years. "Volunteers don't operate under the circumstances, they make the circumstances."



TRIBUTE TO DISASTER RELIEF — Mickey Caison, manager of the adult volunteers mobilization unit at the North American Mission Board in Atlanta, encourages the audience at the Lay Missions Banquet at First Church, Jackson. (Photo by Tony Martin)



MUSIC FOR PRAISE — Pure Gospel, a music group from First Church, Madison, shares with banquet attendees during the Lay Missions Banquet at First Church, Jackson, on October 28. Rick Green (left), minister of music at First Church, Madison, leads the group. (Photo by Tony Martin)

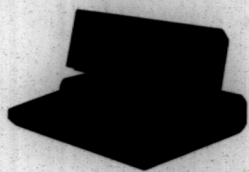
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Fax: (601) 292-3330
E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org**

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Win some, lose some

Was the Election Day that just passed a good day for Christians and the issues close to our hearts? It really depends on the issue and/or the section of the country. We've had better Election Days, but we've had worse ones, too.

On the drug front, pro-marijuana initiatives failed in three of five contests. Nevada voters overwhelmingly defeated a proposal that would have legalized possession of up to three ounces of marijuana.

More than 60% of South Dakota voters turned down an initiative that would have allowed the state's residents to cultivate and market hemp, a marijuana-like plant with several industrial applications.

By a margin that nearly matched the South Dakotans' vote, residents of Arizona thumped an initiative that would have put marijuana possession on a par with jaywalking.

On the other hand, San Francisco voters approved a measure to establish a medical marijuana distribution system. Voters in the District of Columbia approved an initiative that will allow diversion and treatment programs instead of jail time for possession of marijuana.

Ohioans turned down a measure, similar to the District of Columbia proposal, that would have expanded the diversion and treatment program there to a entire class of drug abusers.

Nevadans also voted by a 2-1 margin in favor of a constitutional amendment establishing marriage as the union of one man and one woman — a blow to the homosexual rights lobby campaigning hard across the country for homosexual marriage.

The homosexual rights lobby did score minor victories elsewhere, however, turning back attempts to repeal pro-homosexual city ordinances in Sarasota, Fla.; Ypsilanti, Mi.; Tacoma, Wa.; and Westbrook, Maine.

On gambling issues, virtually every major proposal to permit or expand gambling was approved by voters. Tennessee, one of only three remaining states with no form of legal gambling (Utah and Hawaii being the others), approved the creation of a state lottery. North Dakota voters agreed to join a big-dollar, multistate lottery.

Arizona voters extended their state lottery for another ten years and approved the expansion of gambling on Native American reservations — but they did defeat a number of other minor measures that would have allowed even greater expansion and considerably less oversight of reservation gambling.

Idaho voters passed a measure to allow slot machines on reservations. Iowa voters renewed riverboat casino and race-track gambling for an additional eight years.

However, South Carolinians threw out their incumbent governor after they apparently perceived his promise of \$150 million annually for education from the state lottery he advocated did not materialize after all.

On Capital Hill, the capture of both houses of Congress by conservatives — and in many cases religious conservatives — along with an allied White House is a good signal to reopen debate on such issues as outlawing the ghastly partial-birth abortion procedure, and move ahead on solid judicial appointments like that of federal District Judge Charles Pickering Sr.,

**"WHAT YOU HEARD IS TRUE —
OUR CHURCH HAS ITS SHARE OF
HYPOCRITES. WELL, LET'S SEE...
THERE'S JACOB AND DAVID... AND
JONAH AND SIMON PETER...."**



of Laurel, a former two-term president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

There seems to be a ray of hope in these election results that little by little, election by election, the nation may be moving at a glacial pace toward some semblance of the moral, upstanding society that God and the Founding Fathers had in mind for us.

It's almost too much to hope, but never too much for which to pray, so let's get busy. With God, nothing is impossible.

Or have we forgotten that fact?

GUEST OPINION:



Why YEC?

*By Jay Fletcher, minister to youth
First Church, Clinton*

who helps put this event together, I want to answer the question: *Why YEC?*

I hope that you hear my heart. This is not just another youth event. I would like to take you through the areas that set this conference apart, and hopefully, will challenge you to bring your students to YEC.

God is honored!

Yes, we have some of the best speakers and musicians from all over the country every year, but the one thing that sets these people apart is that they live out what they share with our students.

In everything that these people do and share, God is honored and lifted up. That is important to me because I want my students to see what it means to live out what you say.

Guidance is given!

Every year I see students accept Christ as their personal Savior. Every year I am anticipating the moment when the invitation is given and students flood the aisles going to meet Jesus as Lord and Savior. Wow, what a moment!

It does not stop there. These students are counseled and challenged to get involved with a loving church body and plugged into a discipleship group so that they can learn the basics of the Christian faith.

The challenge is always issued to "talk it" and "live it" because people are watching and listening every day. I have seen some of my own students come to know Christ during YEC. I have seen some of my own students called into ministry at YEC. For this I am grateful.

Growth takes place!

What is taught at YEC sticks! Having done youth ministry for many years, I have seen students come home from many events, and after a couple of weeks they are living life as if they have already forgotten what God did in their lives.

YEC is different. I still meet former students who say, "Remember the decision that I made at YEC?"

I have been to many of the holiday conferences, and I want to tell you that bigger is not always better. If you want the Word and the lifestyle to stick with your students, bring them to the 2002 YEC on December 30-31 at A.E. Wood Coliseum on the campus of Mississippi College in Clinton.

This is an event that will be on my youth calendar every year. I pray that you will move from asking yourself, *Why YEC?* to asking yourself, *Why Not YEC?*

For more information on the 2002 YEC, contact Dom Lum, consultant in the Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3280 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 280. E-mail: dllum@mbcb.org.

Partnership announced by IMB, Wycliffe

DALLAS (BP) — A new missions partnership could accelerate by 100 years the translation of the Bible for the estimated one billion people who still do not have God's Word in their own language.

Leaders of the Southern

Baptist International Mission Board (IMB) and Wycliffe International announced the agreement Nov. 1 in Dallas. Under the new plan, the IMB will appoint missionaries to fill needs for translators, share more information about church planting and translation projects, and coordinate strategies for taking the Gospel to unreached people groups.

About 3,000 language groups have no access to the good news of God's love. At the current pace, translations for all of them could not be completed until 2150.

"We have such a great need to get the Bible into the languages of the people around the world," said Avery Willis, senior vice president of the International Mission Board. "Everybody deserves to have the Word of God in the language they love, the language they cry in, and get mad in and rejoice in."

"If we are going to communicate the gospel to these last people groups, the Bible has to be translated into their languages."

As many as 400 million people speak languages for which no one is even trying to translate the Scripture, said John Watters,

ways to effectively and cooperatively work together for the glory of God."

Watters spoke to IMB trustees during their Nov. 1-3 meeting in Dallas. His presentation followed a daylong meeting of Wycliffe's and the IMB's

overseas leadership. Top leaders of the two groups had met at IMB headquarters in Richmond, Va., on Aug. 30.

Wycliffe's 5,000 missionaries have helped translate the New Testament into more than 500 languages and currently have another 1,400-plus projects underway.

Their translations of Bible stories and the Gospel of Luke speed the process of getting the gospel to people groups through Chronological Bible Storying and the JESUS film.

The group's role as a Bible translation organization makes it an ideal partner for the IMB's focus on evangelism and church planting, and recent meetings between leaders of the two organizations have moved their relationship to a new level, said IMB President Jerry Rankin.

"The partnership the IMB has had with Wycliffe has been a wonderful synergy of working together," Rankin said. "With John's vision and encouragement, we are now strengthening our partnership and pushing it out to the mission field."

Missionaries report that when people groups hear God's Word for the first time ever, lives are changed:

- About 13,000 people in one isolated people group were exposed to the gospel for the first time after the "Jesus" film was translated into their language, said Dickie Nelson, leader of IMB work in the Caribbean Basin region. About 425 made decisions for Christ and the first 82 believers were baptized in October.

- One old man who was among the first ever to hear the gospel in his own language told a missionary: "When you shared with me, my heart said, 'That's it! That's what I've been waiting for!'" said Bill Bullington, leader of IMB work in the West Africa region.

- A girl who was afflicted by evil spirits got worse after a traditional religious leader used a spell to help her, said John Brady,



TAKING BIBLE TO THE WORLD — Leaders of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board (IMB) and Wycliffe International announced a partnership agreement Nov. 1 in Dallas: (from left, Avery Willis, IMB senior vice president for overseas operations; John Watters, executive director of Wycliffe International; and IMB President Jerry Rankin. (BP photo by Mo Sadjadpour)

Wycliffe International's executive director.

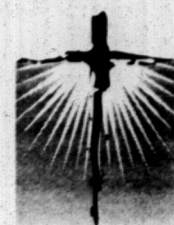
"We have been asking ourselves what would it take to give every language community some access to God's Word by 2050," he said. "That would cut 100 years off the translation process that's already going on."

"That's overwhelming. In fact, we recognize it is impossible for us but it is not impossible for the Lord of the harvest. That's why partnership is critical."

"That's why we've been talking with the IMB about

LifeWay redesigns web site

In an attempt to make the Web easier to handle, LifeWay Christian Resources has redesigned its home on the Internet, www.LifeWay.com. "Users of our numerous LifeWay websites often have been confused about how to find information, how one program related to another, or how to order materials," said Gary McClure, LifeWay's e-business marketing manager. "They have asked us to simplify how they interact with us. Our goal is one website that makes their online experience with us more convenient and efficient." A recent study by Giga Information Group, a global information technology advisory firm, revealed that LifeWay.com has some of the best technologies, intuitive features and effective marketing of key secular sites. LifeWay's site ranked high in almost every category, especially in use of technology and marketing, McClure said. "The overall design has been improved and updated to better meet customer needs. A more intuitive navigation helps customers spend less time finding what they want," McClure said, noting the changes are the result of ongoing feedback from customers. The new LifeWay.com features a number of tools available from the home page, including material guides, a new Bible reference library, online behavioral assessments, a ministry job board, health calculators and free downloads, among others, he said. The site also introduces the comprehensive online catalog, LifeWay's newest shopping channel. The online catalog features a comprehensive collection of all products produced by LifeWay, including dated, undated and Broadman & Holman materials. Product information is accessible through both a search and browse function, and purchases can be made without having to have a



MISSISSIPPI
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**THE
SECOND
FRONT PAGE**

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leader of IMB work in the northern Africa and the Middle East region. Her father, however, had recently received a Bible in his own language. When he prayed to "the God of this book," she was delivered — and her father gave his heart to Christ.

- When the Bible was publicly read for the first time for one people group, their leader exclaimed, "God speaks my language!" — and every adult present decided to follow Christ, said Gordon Fort, leader of IMB work in the Southern Africa region.

Watters called for Christians to pray that God would call out missionaries to tackle the challenge of translating God's Word for people groups that have never heard it.

Want to help translate the Bible for unreached people groups? E-mail initial.contacts@imb.org.

What can you do?
<http://going.imb.org/whatcanido.asp>
Wycliffe USA organization:
<http://www.wycliffe.org>.

Looking back

10 years ago

A total of 1,804 registered messengers to the Mississippi Baptist Convention complete business sessions of their annual convention in Jackson, most notably turning back an attempt to force the re-opening of now defunct Clarke College in Newton.

20 years ago

In an emotion-charged address, Charles Wilbanks, a Corinth attorney and former teacher at the Mississippi College School of Law in Jackson, accuses the school of serving liquor at student-faculty functions during the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

50 years ago

Mississippi Baptists bring "one of their truly greatest conventions to a climatic and dramatic conclusion," according to a report in The Baptist Record, with a crowd of 3,500 attending in Jackson's City Auditorium.

'James' box damaged in transit

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — An ancient and much-publicized limestone bone box was described as "badly damaged" in transit from Israel to a museum in Canada, officials said Nov. 1. The box, called an ossuary from approximately 63 A.D., has been heralded as the only New Testament-era mention of Jesus.

The ossuary was en route to Toronto's Royal Ontario Museum from a unidentified private collector in Jerusalem who had purchased the box a number of years ago but only recently had learned of its potential significance.

"The box was very badly damaged, but still intact. It has not broken," Don Rahimi, director of the Toronto museum's collections management, told the Associated Press.

The existence of the box, roughly 20 inches long, 10 inches wide and 12 inches high, was announced Oct. 21 at a news conference in Washington, D.C. It apparently once contained the bones of James, the brother of Jesus. An inscription on the box reads, "James, son of Joseph, brother of Jesus."

An extensive article about the limestone box appears in the November-December issue of the Biblical Archaeology Review, published by the Washington-based Biblical Archaeology Society. The article is titled, Burial Box of James the Brother of Jesus.

Every church has an "oldest" Sunday School class. I know of one church where that class refers to themselves as the "Has-Beens." I don't agree with that title and I wouldn't suggest that anyone else call them that. I'm not even sure that I, in any way, favor them calling themselves "Has-Beens" because they are bright, alive, well, and have a lot to contribute. I know of another church where the oldest class refers to themselves as the "Wright and Ferguson" class. That, too, is an unofficial designation and it comes from the fact that their next move, they say, will be to the funeral home.

Not long ago, I heard about the name of another class and it is absolutely the most unusual designation I've ever heard for this oldest group. It is an unofficial, self-proclaimed designation of the oldest ladies' Sunday School class in this particular church and they call themselves the "H&H Class." When I heard the name, I didn't know what it meant, so I asked. The teacher of the class, with a mischievous grin and a twinkle in her eye, said, "It stands for Heaven or Hell. When you leave this class, you are on your way to one or the other." In response to that statement, I said to her, "Well, I hope most of them are headed to Heaven and not to Hell!" She replied, "Oh, me too, but, there are some that we are not sure about."

At first, when I heard the explanation for "H&H," I



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

thought, "Well, that's not good! I mean, even in jest, calling yourself the 'H&H (Heaven or Hell)' class!" Yet, the more I thought about it, the more I thought that perhaps that ought to be the name for every Sunday School class.

What if we were to come together to study the Word of God and every person there would seriously think about their eternal destiny? What if, every week, the teacher would come to class prepared to teach the Word of God laced with a concern and a compassion for people who may not know the Lord? That would certainly be good!

If we were to see how close to Heaven or Hell we live, it might well be a shocking revelation for all of us. We go to work, have social connections, have family connections, walk in and out among folks who are living right on the edge of eternity, and we do not even think about it! I suppose that the only time most of us seriously think about eternity is just moments after someone has suddenly gone there and we realize that

we could have taken the opportunity to make sure that they knew Jesus. Life is not just bumping up against the end-time. Life should be filled with experiences of a faithful walk with God and delightful service in His name.

Back in 1997, a book came out entitled, *Healthy Aging, Inspirational Letters from Americans*. The book was a compilation of letters put together by Carolyn Worthington and she was asking Americans over 50 to give their secrets to good, happy, healthy living.

Worthington said that what they discovered was that the happiest people are those who give: they give back to the community; they give to the church; or they give to someone they run into in life with a need. In other words, they are people who keep a good attitude and they are people who stay connected with the folks around them.

There are themes that flow through nearly all the letters that are written in the book in order for a person to stay healthy and happy. Some of

the themes were: Expand Your Mind, Laugh Out Loud and Often, Give of Yourself, Keep the Faith, Walk, and Look to Mentors. One missing element in the book was the lack of emphasis on diet. In fact, some of the letters were almost anti-diet and anti-good eating. One lady said, "Eat vegetables? No, never! My mother tried to make me eat them and I wouldn't. Everyone else tries to make me eat them and I'm still not going to!" The lady, who was talking about her eating habits, was about to celebrate her four-score birthday, and was choosing to face life and death happy, but without vegetables!

There is very little that is scientific about this publication, but the rising reality that comes from it is that all of us can have a good attitude and we can all learn to keep our spirits right. So, keep your attitude good, sweet, and positive. Forget the past, forget your pains, and get on with today's living!

Wherever you are in the journey of life, just remember this - even if you are not in the "H&H" class, the only day that you have is this one, and "This is the day which the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it." Yesterday is an unchangeable memory.

Tomorrow is an untouchable dream. Today — well, today is a gift from God. It is an unequalled opportunity. Enjoy it! Embrace it! Use it for the glory of God!

Church insurer declares vans 'inherently unsafe'

DALLAS (ABP) — More than 10,000 churches continue to operate a vehicle the Southern Baptist Convention's primary insurer of churches has declared "inherently unsafe."

GuideOne, the church insurer endorsed by the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), insures more than 50,000 churches nationwide. Of those, about 10,000 maintain policies on 15-passenger vans. Some of those churches own and insure more than one such van.

The insurer has strongly encouraged churches to stop

using 15-passenger vans. "GuideOne believes 15-passenger vans to be inherently unsafe," the company said. "We encourage our policyholders to strongly consider other transportation options."

The company still covers 15-passenger vans it has already insured but has stopped writing new policies for the large vans. It also has issued regulations about who may operate the vans. All drivers are required to have a commercial driver's license, a chauffeur's license, or pass a defensive driver's course.

In April, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reissued a cautionary warning to users of 15-passenger vans. Government research has determined 15-passenger vans have a rollover risk that dramatically increases as the number of occupants increases from fewer than five people to more than 10. The rollover rate for 15-passenger vans in single-vehicle crashes nearly triples when the vans are loaded with 10 or more occupants as compared to fewer than five occupants.

Critics say the weight and center of gravity of 15-passenger

vans make them more susceptible to rollovers, that their design does not allow them to endure a side-impact crash, and that many deaths in the vans have been attributed to occupants not wearing seat belts.

An investigation by CBS News revealed at least 424 people nationwide have been killed and hundreds seriously injured in rollovers of the vans since 1990.

These findings have created a quandary for many churches that don't want to operate vehicles that may be unsafe but have large sums of money invested in the vans. The vans are popular because they provide a relatively inexpensive way to transport a group of people in a vehicle that anyone with a regular license can drive.

If they sell their 15-passenger vans, churches fear they might simply be passing the safety hazard onto others.

First Church of Athens, Texas, is looking to dispose of its four 15-passenger vans. "We've parked them and pulled the keys," said Family Minister Joe Wood.

Wood said parking the vans was the easy decision, but determining what to do with them now is harder. "We would prefer they not be used for people transport."

Miss. CP up in October

Mississippi Baptists gave \$2,820,950 in the month of October to the work of the Lord through the Mississippi Cooperative Program (CP), according to Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board which disburses the funds. The October amount is eighth highest in CP history. It is the third-highest total for any month in 2002, surpassed only by January at \$3,389,338 — the all-time CP record — and July at \$2,926,882. The October total is 25.14% more than the amount given in previous month, and 7.92% below giving during the same month last year. The 2002 CP budget, as approved by messengers to the 2001 Mississippi Baptist Convention, is a scant 1.26% ahead of requirements. A monthly CP giving total of \$2,543,558 is needed to meet the record 2002 CP budget of \$30,522,692. Mississippi CP funds such programs as the Missions Mobilization (formerly Partnership Missions) Celebration on November 15-16 at the Baptist Building in Jackson.

SBC CP shows rise

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Gifts to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Cooperative Program (CP) in October were 8.47% above gifts for the same period the previous year, according to a news release from SBC Executive Committee President and Chief Executive Officer Morris H. Chapman. October's \$13,765,535.63 in CP gifts to support Southern Baptist ministries globally and across North America compared to \$12,690,349.68 in October 2001, a difference of \$1,075,185.95. Designated gifts of \$2,754,138.55 in October, meanwhile, were 16.90% below October's 2001's \$3,314,282.56, a decrease of \$560,144.01. The SBC operates on an Oct. 1-Sept. 30 fiscal year. For the SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget, the October receipts of \$13,765,535.63 were 93.35% of the budgeted \$14,746,866.83, or \$981,331.20 below the budget goal. The SBC Cooperative Program total includes receipts from individuals, churches, state conventions and fellowships for distribution according to the 2001-02.

Bivocational pastors sought by churches

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP) — In the small town of Gladeville, Tenn., more than a thousand people gather every Sunday to hear a pastor who earns his living with a fulltime job elsewhere.

In Oklahoma City, Leon Wilson planted a congregation that grew to 600 members while he operated a used truck sales business. In Cushing, Okla., Larry Lehr finds dynamic synergy in his dual roles as pastor of the slightly smaller Council Valley Church and his secular profession as a marketing coordinator for an educational institution in nearby Drumright.

For at least half a century in Southern Baptist life, according to these leaders in bivocational ministry, there has been a perceived pride on behalf of both pastors and churches in what is commonly called "full-time" ministry — in which the pastor of a church has no other employment. In fact, only 60-65% of churches have what bivocational ministers prefer to call "fully funded" pastors.

A modern movement advocating "intentional" bivocational ministry is based on the concept that even in cases when churches can afford fully funded leadership, it may not be the ideal. If new churches are to be started at the accelerated rate needed to reach the nation, they may just be an extravagance.

"The reality is that those churches will have to be started and staffed by laypeople or bivocational ministers," said Wilson, who now serves as a

national missionary for bivocational church planting with the North American Mission Board (NAMB). "The challenge is to make such ministry just as valued and respected as those who are fully funded.

"The idea is not to try to get rid of this external job," Wilson added. "It's to build the church and to build the ministry."

their dual careers in their education. "As God calls young men into ministry, we need to help them understand that bivocational ministry is a viable option and they perhaps need to gain some marketable skills as they go through their training," said Richard Harris, NAMB's vice president for church planting.

First he went back to his home in Oklahoma and got involved in the family business, Wilson Truck Sales. Shortly thereafter he decided to start a church, beginning with 13 people meeting in a home.

As South Park Church grew, Wilson began to realize that even when it reached the point it could support a fully funded pastor he saw no reason to leave his other secular career. Part of the appeal was that regular contact with the outside world kept him in touch with the world of his people and gave him experience dealing with people outside the church.

"I think every pastor needs five years out in the secular world," he said. "I found out what the real life was like, and then I began to love the ministry. ... Being out in the real world and knowing what people put up with, I was able to communicate this in the way I lived and the way I speak."

To learn more about bivocational ministry, visit www.bivocationalnetwork.org. Wilson also can be contacted at lwilson@namb.net.

In Mississippi, contact Matt Buckles, director of pastor/leadership development, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3308 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 308. E-mail: mbuckles@mbcb.org.



BIVOCATIONAL ADVANTAGES — Larry Lehr (standing), pastor of Council Valley Church in Cushing, Okla., encourages the ladies' Thursday evening study group. Lehr also serves as marketing director for a local technical school. The church is large enough to afford a fully funded pastor, but Lehr said his bivocational status has advantages for both the church and himself. (BP photo)

The path to the realization of bivocational ministry as God's ideal in a particular situation often develops over time, but Wilson and others active in the Southern Baptist Bivocational Ministers Association hope that more young people called to ministry will accept the calling early enough to prepare for

For Wilson, the realization came after 20 years in the pastorate when he decided he would have to seek some other way of fulfilling his calling.

"I knew two things: God had called me to preach, but God had given me a family," he said. "And I knew he didn't want me to destroy one to do the other."

SBC protesters see charges reduced in St. Louis

ST. LOUIS (BP) — A dozen homosexual rights protesters who tried to disrupt the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) proceedings inside a St. Louis convention center in June were released on misdemeanor charges only hours after being arrested, it was recently learned.

The protesters, members of the group Soulforce, initially were charged with class "D" felonies. An assistant city prosecutor, however, reduced the charges to misdemeanor trespassing, with each protester's fines and court costs totaling about \$250.

The light penalty sets a dangerous precedent for freedom of religion, said Tim Wilkins, a former homosexual and founder of Cross Ministry, which helps the church reach homosexuals with the Gospel.

"It's nothing but a slap on the hand that does nothing to dissuade future disruptions," Wilkins, of Raleigh, N.C., told The Pathway, newsjournal of the Missouri Baptist Convention. "It does not protect Southern Baptists' right to assemble and worship without disruption from people who might disagree with them."

Wilkins was a messenger at the convention's annual meeting in St. Louis. He said protests by Soulforce are likely to become more disruptive if the law is not more strictly enforced by prosecutors.

"I wonder if the judicial system in St. Louis is possibly playing favorites," Wilkins said. "They might be intimidated by militant gay organizations for fear of a backlash."

Soulforce has demonstrated at the SBC the last three years against the SBC's stances against the homosexual lifestyle.

In St. Louis, however, the group took its actions to a new level. A dozen people entered the convention center and during President James Merritt's address, one by one started shouting chants such as "God loves God's gay children." The protesters were removed from the convention floor and arrested. They were originally charged with the felony of ethnic intimidation. The so-called hate crime charge was dropped, according to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Those arrested pleaded guilty to misdemeanor trespassing and were fined \$100 each, plus court costs, the St. Louis Circuit Clerk's office reported. The office also noted it was unlikely any of the individuals spent time in jail.

Another 38 members of Soulforce were arrested outside the convention center trying to enter the building. According to the group, they were charged with two city ordinance violations and released after a few hours. Although St. Louis police showed professionalism in enforcing the law by arresting the protesters, the court system failed to support the city's law enforcement authorities, said Jack Wilkerson, SBC convention manager.

"We have a right to assemble and they have a right to protest, but not to disrupt our meeting," Wilkerson told The Pathway, noting that the SBC sessions were a private

meeting in a rented city facility. "We have the right," he said, "to conduct the business of a private meeting."

In planning the St. Louis convention, Wilkerson said the SBC went above and beyond even normal procedures to make sure messengers felt safe, adding that the Soulforce members were not successful in their attempts to disrupt the convention.

The SBC will continue to take a strong stand to provide a safe environment for messengers who attend the annual meeting in the face of future protests, Wilkerson said.

"We will continue to care about and love these people," he said of the Soulforce activists. "They need the Lord Jesus."

"We'll be fair and firm, but we will not endanger the process of the convention."

The St. Louis operation was carefully planned, said Mel White, Soulforce founder, in an interview with The Pathway. "The arrests are media-driven street theater," he said. "We don't pretend that they aren't."

Two years ago, Soulforce members were arrested at the SBC's annual meeting in Orlando, Fla., and fined \$300 each. In 2001 in New Orleans, 34 members were arrested for trying to interfere with Southern Baptists right to assemble, but all charges were dropped and no fines were paid.

White said the group protests Southern Baptists over their biblical views on homosexuality, which, he claims, cause suffering for homosexual, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people.

Tornado hits church during p.m. service

CARBON HILL, Ala. (BP) — Terrified church members crouched in the basement of First Church, Carbon Hill, Ala., as a tornado killed nine people elsewhere and destroyed a large portion of the downtown business district.

The pastor had just finished his message when the sirens sounded, Timothy Murray, the church's student minister, recounted. About 30 worshipers were herded into the church's basement where they survived the storm.

"It was pretty scary," Murray said. "Fortunately a lot of people weren't at church because of the bad weather."

Murray said he could hear the tornado as it clipped the back corner of the church. "After it hit we went upstairs and we knew it was bad when we saw the sanctuary," he said. The storm had blown open the doors. Leaves and other debris littered the auditorium.

"We lost shingles and siding but we didn't have any major structural damage," he said. "But the rest of downtown looks like a war zone."

Murray said buildings throughout the town were destroyed or heavily damaged. He reported that two homes burned to the ground.

City officials locked down the town and some stranded church members took refuge in the parsonage.

"There were about eight of us who couldn't get to our own homes so the pastor put us up in his house," Murray said, "and he also had a basement just in case there was any more bad weather."

Murray said no church members were injured in the storm.

JUST FOR THE RECORD

Pat Nations, pastor of Dublin Church, Covington, presented a \$1,040 check to Ora Hooker of Prentiss Regional Extended Care. The church gave Sunday offerings towards the purchase of a nursing home van.



Hooker and Nations

Cliff Temple Church, Natchez, held

High Attendance Day on Oct. 27. The goal was set for 100 in Sunday School and 140 attended. Joel Haire is the Interim Pastor.

Oak Grove Church, Lake, held revival services Aug. 4-11. This was also their 100th anniversary. Marshall Lum, Carthage, preached and John Alumbaugh, Forest, led music. Keith McGee is pastor.

Falkner Church, Falkner, will have a sanctuary dedication service at 10:45 a.m. on Nov. 17. Lunch will follow the service and open house will be from 2-4 p.m. Stanley Huddleston is pastor.

Thursday Night Together, a Metro Jackson single's gathering, begins Nov. 7 on the first and third Thursday of each month at First Jackson, Jackson, Christian Life Center, room 200. TNT begins at 6:30 and all singles are invited. TNT is sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Discipleship, and Family Ministry Department, and Metro Area Churches. For more information contact Jan at MBSingles@aol.com.

Evelyn Hopkins, Clarke County Baptist Association, has successfully completed the requirements for Certified Ministry Assistant in the ministry office personal enrichment program.

Robert Rowzee was ordained on Aug. 11 at Chunky Church, Chunky. Rowzee is pastor of New Fellowship Church, Hickory, and attends New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Pictured (from left) are Rowzee and Wayne Campbell.

Thanksgiving services will be held at Oakvale Church, Oakvale, on Nov. 20 at 7 p.m. Churches officiating will be Society Hill, Hathorn, and Oakvale. Tommy Broom, Society Hill, will bring the message, Hathorn will furnish music, and Oakvale will furnish food.

REVIVAL DATES & HOMECOMINGS

Line Creek, Morton: Nov. 17; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner at noon; cemetery meeting, 1:30 p.m.; Tim Robertson, preaching; Tal Vardamon, music; Scott Walters, pastor.

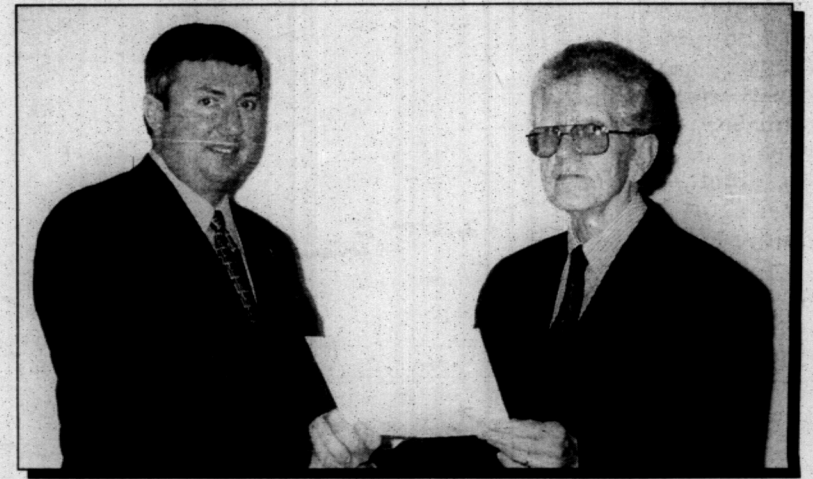
First, Belzoni: Nov. 17; Harvest Day; worship, 10 a.m.; covered dish lunch following; Marvin Murphy, Doty Chapel, Shannon, preaching; George C. Johnson, pastor.

Mt. Carmel, Edinburg: Nov. 15-17; Gospel Singing Revival; Fri. and Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Jack Hollingsworth and the Born Again Quartet, music; Keith Fulton, pastor.

Puckett, Puckett: Nov. 17-20; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:45 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Rick Henson, Oakdale, Brandon, evangelist; Steve Walker, Pinola, music; Grant McElveen, pastor.

Rehobeth, Pelahatchie: Nov. 17-20; Sunday, dinner on grounds, no evening service; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m., dessert and coffee after Wed. service; James Goodwin, Beacon Church, Nashville, Tenn., speaking.

Fairview, Indianola: Nov. 24; 129th anniversary; worship, 10:30 a.m.; lunch will follow in Redding Hall.



Rowzee and Campbell

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Missionary Amy Johnson

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She is bringing a word of peace to Honduras, one of the most violent countries in Central America with more than 20,000 gang members and 40,000 deaths.

They've formed a new gang—a Bible study gang.



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Goal: \$125 million



That all peoples
may know Him

NAMES IN THE NEWS



McCorkle

Alva Ray McCorkle retired as pastor of East Moss Point Church, Moss Point, on Oct. 31. A reception honoring him was held Oct. 27.

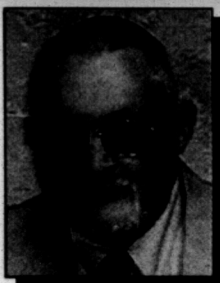
McCorkle is available for supply, interim, and mid-winter bible studies. He can be reached at (228) 475-0351.

Steele Church, Forest, licensed **Jessie Warren** to ministry on Sept. 1 and presented him with a check for \$603.56.

The money was raised during VBS in June and will go toward helping Warren offset expenses from summer mission trip to Taiwan. Pictured (from left) are Warren and Blain McLain, pastor.

Alex Fletcher was recently licensed by Morrison Chapel Church, Cleveland. Fletcher serves in the

nursing home ministry and prison ministry. He also serves as a deacon. John **Arthur Thomas** is pastor.



Fletcher

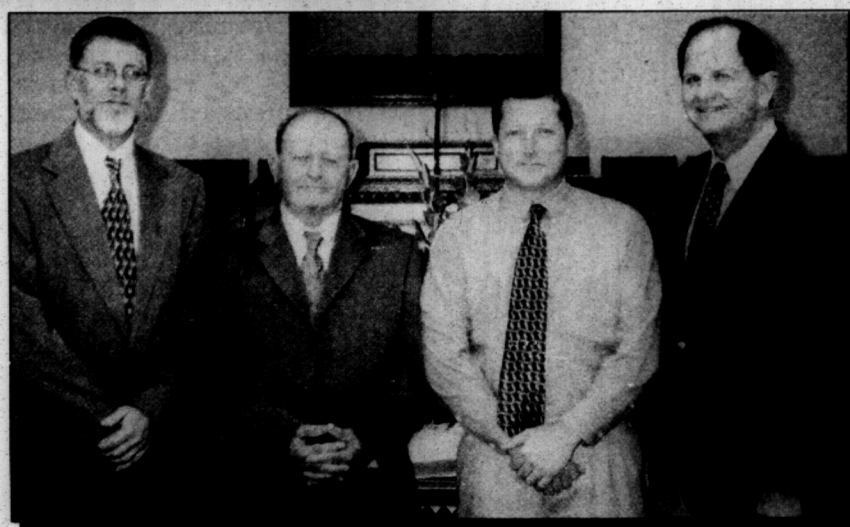
Travis Pittman, New Hope Church, Foxworth, was ordained as deacon on Oct. 20.

Calvary Church, Vicksburg, licensed **Steven Lee Clark** to ministry on Sept. 29. Pictured (from left) are Dwight Sibley, pastor, and Clark.



Sibley and Clark

Calvary Church, Greenwood, ordained **Eddie Muse** and **Stephen Jennings** on Sept. 29. Pictured (from left) are Robert Ezell, Muse, Jennings, and Waynie Kimbrough, pastor.



Deacon Ordination of Calvary Church, Greenwood

Macedonia Church, Petal, held a deacon ordination on Sept. 22. Pictured (from left) are **Will Dossett**, his wife Tammy, Jerry Doggett, pastor, his wife Linda Sue, **Jody Young**, and his wife Heather.



Warren and McLain

OBITUARY

James R. "Jimmy" Hodges, 79, a retired minister from McComb, passed away Oct. 8 in Magnolia following a lengthy illness.

Originally from Florence, Ala., he served in the U.S. Navy from 1942 through the end of World War II. He completed nine combat patrols in the Pacific as a radioman aboard the submarine U.S.S. Blackfish.

After the war, he attended Mississippi College where he received a degree in English. Thereafter, he graduated from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and began his life's work. He pastored churches in Progress, McComb, Bentonia,

Hazlehurst, and Waynesboro, Miss., and in Talledega, Robertsdale, Dadeville, and Alexander City, Ala.

He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Mary Ethel Hamm Hodges; his children Mike and Connie Hodges, McComb, and Mark and Beth Hodges, Jackson; three grandchildren, Gabe Hodges, Manassas, Va., Ben Hodges, Hattiesburg, and Cole Hodges, McComb; and by one brother, Audie Hodges, Florence, Ala.

Arrangements were through Catchings Funeral Home, McComb, with burial at Progress Church Cemetery, Progress.



Macedonia Church Deacon Ordination, Petal

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(*I have sinned.*)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death.
(*I repent.*)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you.
(*I believe in Jesus.*)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him.
(*I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.*)

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

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BAPTIST COLLEGE & SEMINARY NEWS

Leslie Turcotte Threadgill, Madison, has been selected as the Mississippi College, Clinton, 2002 Distinguished Alumna from



Threadgill and Barnes

the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences. Threadgill received a B.S. in Family and Consumer Sciences, a B.S. in Education, and a Master's Degree in Elementary Education, all from MC.

Pictured (from left) are Threadgill and Carol Barnes.

Robin Fabel, former Hollifield Professor of History, Auburn University, will present the tenth annual R. Glen Eaves Lecture in European and English History in Anderson Hall East of the B.C. Rogers Student Center at Mississippi College, Clinton, on Nov. 18 at 7 p.m. His topic is How British Gentlemen Settled their Differences in the Classical Age of the Pistol Duel. The lecture is free and all are invited.

George Dale, State Insurance Commissioner, has been selected as the Mississippi College, Clinton, 2002 Distinguished Alumnus in the Department of History and Political Science.



Dale

Dale was recognized for this honor at the MC homecoming ceremonies Oct. 26. Dale received his B.S.Ed. and the M.Ed. degrees from MC.

William Carey College faculty mem-

bers **Kathy Dyess**, **Keltoun Rowland**, **David Forbat**, and **Connie Roberts** will present a multimedia concert entitled, *The French Connection*, Fri., Nov. 15 at 7:30 p.m. at the Hattiesburg Cultural Center on Main Street, Hattiesburg. The French Connection will focus on the art, poetry and music of 20th century France. Admission is free and dress is casual.

The Blue Mountain College Department of Speech and Theatre will present *Our Town* as the fall production. The production will open on Nov. 19. Other performances will run Nov. 21-23. All evening performances will be at 7:30 p.m. in the Garrett Fine Arts Center on campus. A special matinee for seniors will be held on Nov. 22, at 1:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for students and senior citizens. For more information and reservations, call (662) 685-4771, ext. 131.

Blue Mountain College invites all high school students to attend the annual Fall Fest preview weekend on Nov. 22 and 23. Guests will have the opportunity to meet professors, attend the student production, *Our Town*, and attend an intercollegiate basketball game. Please call 1-800-235-0136 for more information and reservations.

Eleven students from **Blue Mountain College** were selected as Who's Who Among American Colleges and Universities. The students were nominated based on their academic achievement, service to



Blue Mountain College Who's Who Recipients

the community, leadership in extracurricular activities, and potential for continued success.

William Carey College will host the Annual Pine Belt College Fair on Nov. 5 from 9 a.m. until 1

p.m. in the Wilkes Dining Hall and Student Conference Center, Hattiesburg campus. For more information, call Alissa King at (601) 318-6103.

STAFF CHANGES

Richie Freshwater has been called as Minister of Youth to Eastwood Church, Indianola. Billy R. Thomas is Freshwater pastor.

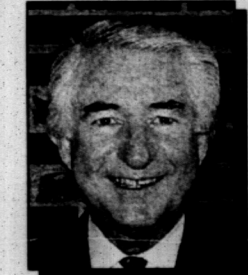


New Hope Church, Foxworth, has called **John Bell** as Minister of Music/Education.

Terry Partin, pastor of Riverside Chapel Mission,

West Point, will be the Interim Associational Missions Director (AMD) for Golden Triangle Association. Bill Duncan, former AMD, will be in the office one day a week through December.

Bill Clark has been called as Interim Minister of Music to Eastwood Church, Indianola. Billy R. Thomas is pastor.



Clark



William Carey College French Connection

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CRUCIAL TIME

Editor:

I presented a motion to the Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBC) out of a heart that believes this is a crucial time for Mississippi Baptists. We must decide which way we will go.

The Southern Baptist Convention is clearly conservative. The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF), by its own admission, is not conservative. Our MBC Constitution states: "...it is the purpose of this Convention through cooperation with the Southern Baptist Convention, to establish and further the Kingdom of God in all parts of the world." (Article II). We must support the SBC with all our hearts. We cannot be divided in our loyalties.

The SBC and CBF are clearly going in two different ways. I am not passing judgment on my Christian brothers and sisters in CBF. I just believe it is time to be honest, and quit pretending CBF is not a convention; it has its own missionaries, literature, administration, lobbying group, press, and benefits group. It supports twelve seminaries and colleges. When CBF applied for membership in Baptist World Alliance, CBF itself listed 20 ways it is not a part of the SBC.

I have love and respect for my CBF friends, but I look at them as another denomination, not as a part of the SBC.

The MBC has a wonderful opportunity to affirm our faith in Jesus and His work through MBC and SBC. I pray that God will bless us as we choose which way we will go. Two ways. One choice. I pray we will make the right choice.

Ralph Henson, pastor

Arrowood Church, Meridian

DISHEARTENED

Editor:

After only eight months in Mississippi, I attended my first state convention meeting this year. I was disheartened as the convention passed without a

single, brave, Mississippi Baptist willing to stand and make a motion regarding Rivercrest Fellowship and their female pastor. When will we stand up for the clear teaching of God's holy, unchanging, inerrant Word and fight liberalism? I am ashamed of myself and disappointed in my more tenured brethren.

Matt Brady, pastor
First Church, Durant

THANKS TO POOLE

Editor:

I want to thank Chuck Poole, pastor of Northminster Church, Jackson, for his encouragement to women who are trying to discern the voice of God from all the other voices they hear.

At the Mississippi Baptist Convention, a proposal was made to bar women from serving as pastors. Poole spoke in response to this resolution by defending God's right to call whomever He chooses — male or female — to whatever position of service He chooses.

Poole shares the pulpit at Northminster Church with a woman, as have his predecessors. Running like a red thread throughout his sermons and books is his recurring theme: "Jesus came to show us what God is like. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John tell us what God wants us to do. Read these Gospels over and over."

In my opinion, efforts to bind and limit the holy and uncontainable God is like trying to put the ocean in a tub. God could have sculpted Jesus Christ out of modeling clay and breathed life into his nostrils as He did Adam, the first man. He chose and called a woman to birth the Messiah.

It is also my opinion that God-called women should not have to leave their homeland for a foreign mission field in order to get church approval and the freedom to teach, preach, build churches, and win the lost to Christ. I feel that censorship of God's call to

women preempts the authority of God, and the prejudice engendered is like putting a legal cloud on the title of a deed.

Ruby McLeod
Clinton

Editor's note: The actual wording of the resolution, as approved by messengers to the 2002 annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, reads in part, "...while we affirm the biblical and historical position of male pastors, we also support, encourage, and thank God for the millions of women who serve in our churches and ministries around the world..."

CHINA OPEN?

Editor:

As I read the November 7 article, "Prayer walkers find fertile ground in China," I was amazed at the statement of one Southern Baptist lady who is supposed to be knowledgeable about foreign missions. That is, if she was quoted correctly!

The article quotes Paula Hemphill, wife of Kenneth S. Hemphill, president of Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, as saying "...I don't know that there is any country more open today to the Gospel than China."

If she really doesn't know of the brutality taking place upon Chinese Christians by the Chinese government, she must have fallen victim to the Chinese propaganda.

Please look at the Asia Harvest website to learn the truth about China being open to anything outside of what the Chinese government wants them to do, hear, say, and think, and then ask your readers to do the same. The site is www.asiaharvest.org.

I have loved ones in China at this very moment serving as missionaries. They meet with people who travel for long hours just to hear the Gospel message and to hear the Scriptures read. They would be put in prison for possessing a Bible, and even for meeting with Christians.

If the Chinese government knew that they were speaking with Chinese people about Jesus Christ they would be sent back to the States within two days, so please do not publish my name.

Name withheld

JUSTICE DENIED

Editor:

This is an update to a letter that appeared in the August 12, 1999 edition of The Baptist Record. That year the ACLU Gay and Lesbian Task Force intervened in two Mississippi custody cases, one in support of a gay father, and the other in support of a lesbian mother. The latter case involved two younger daughters of Clay McDonald, a member of First Church, Tupelo, and concerned visitation rights for the mother.

On June 25, 1999, Judge William Griffin Jr. turned Clay's daughters over to the mother and granted her temporary custody, a tactic to circumvent the previous custody awarded to the father.

On October 26, 2001, Clay's daughter filed assault charges against her mother's companion. The trial date was set for a time that Clay was to be in Kuwait with his Army Reserve unit. When he came back from Kuwait, he found that the case was dismissed in his absence.

Now Clay's appeals of the 1999 judgement, after much delay, have been denied by the state Court of Appeals. Appeals Court Judges Southwick, Lee, Myers, McMillan, King, Bridges, Thomas, Chandler, Brantley, and Irving backed the ACLU position and also affirmed the right of the Lee County Chancery Court to charge Clay two dollars per page to copy over 500 pages of court transcripts and exhibits for a total bill of \$1,106.

In their efforts to protect gay and lesbian rights, the Miss. court system has denied justice to the younger McDonald daughters and their father.

David Dockery
Clinton



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and notice will be printed to that effect.

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FULL-TIME CHILDREN'S MINISTER needed: Amite Baptist Church, 7100 Amite Church Road, Denham Springs, LA 70706. Email tbooth@amitechurch.org or fax to (225) 665-5730, pastor, Terry Booth.

ROMANTIC ITALY SPRING BREAK, March

2003 - under \$2,000. Bill and Margarita Stanford, (601) 924-1593 for brochure.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, GRAND BAY Alabama seeks part-time Minister of Music to coordinate the work of children's, youth and adult choirs. Major emphasis to adult choir. Music style should reflect traditional with a slant toward Southern Gospel. Direct inquires and/or resumes to Chairman, Music Search Committee, 13020 Holly Court, Grand Bay, AL 36541.

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MS POSITIONS AVAILABLE

BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTER OF MUSIC sought by church averaging 110 in Sunday School. Please email resume to mwsjgb@vicksburg.com or fax to (601) 636-7574, or mail to: Calvary Baptist Church, 2878 Old Hwy 27, Vicksburg, MS 39180.

TOPEKA BAPTIST CHURCH LOCATED twelve miles south of Monticello, is seeking a Bi-Vocational Minister of Music. Primary responsibilities will include directing music during regular worship services, and special music/drama presentations during the year. Send resumes to: Topeka Baptist Church, 807 China Grove Road, Jayess, MS 39641.

STUDENT MINISTER SOUGHT BY church averaging 154 in Sunday School/70 in Discipleship Training. E-mail resume to Longviewbc@onecallinc.com or mail to Longview Baptist, c/o Johnny Sykes, 406 Dozier Hill Rd., Belden, MS 38826. Church located 6 miles east of Pontotoc, MS/10 miles west of Tupelo, MS.

BI-VOCATIONAL YOUTH MINISTER sought by church averaging 185 in Sunday School. Mail resume to Corinth Baptist Church, 207 Church Road, Magee, MS 39111 by December 9, 2002.

BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTER OF MUSIC position available at Bethel Baptist Church in Water Valley, Miss. For further information contact Bill Finch at (662) 473-3667 or email bfinch@softhome.net.

ADATON BAPTIST CHURCH, Starkville, Miss. seeks full-time Director of Children's Ministry for nursery through sixth grade children. Seminary training and/or related experience or education preferred. Send resume to Adaton Baptist Church ATTN: DOCM Search Chairman, 1975 Highway 82 West, Starkville, MS 39759.

SEEKING TO FILL NEW POSITION: Children's Director, Immanuel Baptist Church, 6949 Hwy 61 South, Vicksburg, MS 39180. Contact person: Donnie Tedford, (601) 636-0482.

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Baptist Hour takes on new name

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — The name of The Baptist Hour, one of the radio programs of the North American Mission Board (NAMB), has been changed to Strength for Living to better reflect its shorter format and practical content, the shows' director announced.

"Because The Baptist Hour is a beloved name, dating back more than 60 years, we probably have held on to it longer than we should," said Martin Coleman, director of NAMB's production team.

The weekly program currently features NAMB President Robert E. Reccord, who took over preaching responsibilities earlier this year from Frank Pollard, the current president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention who retired in December 2001 from the pastorate of First Church, Jackson. To listen to "Strength for Living" or find local stations, visit www.strengthforliving.net.

WCC group presents Good News in Africa

HATTIESBURG, Miss. (Special) — An 11-member team of faculty and students from William Carey College (WCC) arrived back in Hattiesburg after nearly three weeks on a mission trip to Kenya in East Africa.

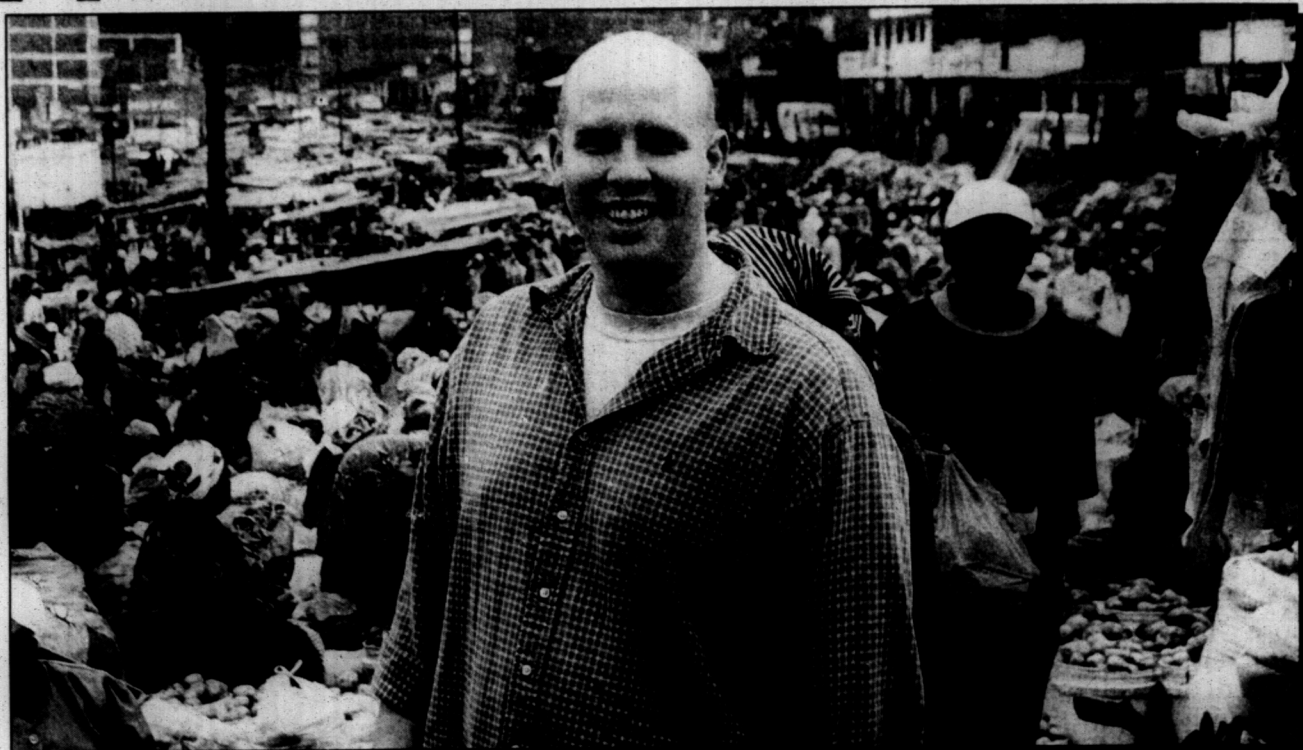
While there, they conducted a number drama presentations, were involved in an Asian-American cultural exchange, and helped train Impact!, a group of eight young Kenyan actors who travel throughout east Africa using drama to present biblical truths.

The mission team consisted of three faculty members in the Department of Theatre and Communication — Michael Chute, Tim Matheny, and Shannon Rober — and eight theatre students: Karen Bowlby, Jonathan Hill, Kevin Jackson, Audrea McMillen, Haley Moore, Josh Penot, Jimbo Stewart, and Tische Wallace. Hill and Penot graduated from WCC in May with degrees in theatre.

WCC is affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

While in Africa, the team presented dramas from puppet shows to scenes to monologues to Broadway and Christian music to readers theatre in schools, churches, chapel services, a hotel, and a conference center.

"It was exciting to see how drama is such an effective and powerful medium for cross-cultural communication," said Chute, the team leader.



CLOSE TO THE PEOPLE — William Carey College (WCC) theater lecturer Tim Matheny stands in front of an open-air street market in Kenya, where he was striving to get closer to the people to whom he had come to witness. Matheny joined two other WCC faculty members and eight students for a recent mission trip to the African nation. (Photo courtesy of WCC)

van out of the mud, coaxing a Civit cat to leave our campsite, and dealing with one of our vans breaking down twice and enduring five flat tires on one trip into the African bush — but team members handled each adversity as an opportunity to accomplish what we felt God led us to Kenya to do, to share our faith in Jesus Christ through drama."

In addition to the performances, the students were key participants in an Asian-American cultural exchange with Indian students who came from Hindu and Muslim backgrounds. They teamed up with students from Wayland Baptist University in Texas as the American contingent in the cultural exchange. The team also helped train the Impact! drama team.

"I enjoyed the blessing of being able to share my testimony in Swahili at a small village church. It was a blessing to be able to touch the lives of so many people," Jimbo Stewart said. "I saw first-hand the Kenyans' positive response to live drama and how effective it can be as a mission tool."

Audrea McMillen said the trip renewed his faith and brought him closer than he ever thought he could be to God. "I enjoyed meeting my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ and being allowed to worship among them. Kenya is an extremely beautiful and diverse country and I would encourage any of my fellow students to go next year, if they feel led. It's a trip that could change your life."

The team worked with John and Amy McKelvey, Southern Baptist missionaries in Kenya.

The couple serve as directors of Brackenhurst Baptist

International Center in Limuru. The McKelveys were at WCC last year while she completed her master's degree in education. Amy McKelvey is the sister of Cheryl Maqueda, WCC Spanish instructor.

"John and Amy McKelvey worked tirelessly to make this trip the success it was," Chute said. "They handled the local logistics for this trip, which was an enormous task, in addition to all their other duties related to operating a first-class conference center in a developing country."

Josh Penot said, "What really got me were the church services. They had no electricity, no musical instrument, or any of the modern conveniences that we have in most churches over here. They cut through all the extras we have too. Nobody was trying to impress us. We were there to worship God and that is exactly what we did. It felt good. They worship and celebrate Christianity like it is supposed to be done. They called us their brothers and sisters in Christ and they really meant it."

"God moved in a big way for us," said Kevin Jackson, "(and) in my opinion, (we received) more from the trip than the Kenyans. I thought the trip was going to be somewhat of an evangelical trip (but) I was mistaken. God was already there and working a great work. The worship services we attended were some of the most Spirit-filled services I've been to in a while."

The team culminated the trip at Brackenhurst during the annual meeting of missionaries in Kenya. "It was wonderful to minister to those who themselves minister in some most of the isolated and difficult places in the world," Chute said. "In many cases our missionaries are the only Christians (or Americans for that matter)

working in these places, separated from any outside support by time — not miles — measured in days. It was good for our students to have exposure to these types of individuals, to learn of their commitment and the challenges they face."

The Kenya Baptist Mission asked the team to perform a September 11 Remembrance, since Americans living outside the U.S. during the tragedy felt as if they were "looking on" and were not able to bring any type of closure. The final performance at mission meeting was a "Night on Broadway" in which the team performed songs from Broadway plays, Shakespeare, and monologues.

"It was just a fun night, light and entertaining," Chute said. "In the dining hall of Brackenhurst, it was great to see the faces of the missionaries and their children as they were entertained by a quality of performances not often seen in Kenya. Many of the missionaries remarked about the high calibre of the performance, and we may have recruited some MKs (missionary kids) to Carey out of the evening."

"All of us were blessed beyond measure by this experience. It is something none of us will ever forget, and we are going back."

Chute said there are numerous ways in which Carey faculty and students can be involved in missions work in Kenya and East Africa, and the rest of the world. He said in Kenya, there are opportunities for short-term and long-term personnel to work in education, medicine, business, and religion.

"We have returned with a good understanding of how the resources at WCC, principally our people, can be plugged into the work God is doing through and among Baptists in Kenya," he said.



WATCH THOSE TEETH — William Carey College (WCC) theater student Jonathan Hill enjoys a snack with a new friend at a national animal reserve in Kenya. Hill was one of eight WCC students who recently returned from a mission trip to the African nation. (Photo courtesy of WCC)

"Our students and faculty represented our Lord Jesus Christ and WCC extremely well. Many people commented about the effectiveness of our team, of their commitment, and a willingness of take on whatever was asked of them."

"It was a demanding trip — life in Africa is not easy or convenient — and our team was busy every moment in some difficult situations such as hiking up mountains, pushing our

FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Salvation Means a New Life

Romans 5:1-11, 18-21

By Gene Neal

Last week we saw that salvation is totally apart from keeping the law. We can't be obedient enough, work hard enough, be good enough, or try hard enough to achieve a level of perfection that God can accept. We will never earn or deserve His forgiveness and salvation. Based on that truth, how can any of us be saved? The answer is one of those "too good to be true" statements. Jesus Christ secured our salvation for us. We simply submit our lives to His lordship - by faith, receive His grace. The question for this week is: does it end there? What difference does salvation make in a person's life?

Chapter five of Romans

begins a new line of reasoning. Paul begins listing some of the things that naturally come into a Christian's life, the first being peace. Let's dig a little deeper into this as Paul addresses a hotly debated issue. One of Satan's greatest tools against a Christian is doubt. Satan loves for a Christian to doubt his own salvation or live in fear that he may lose that salvation. Since much of the book of Romans is a book of logic, Paul used a very logical argument. If we receive salvation based on the work of Christ, then we maintain it the same way. It makes no sense to think that we are saved based on Christ's merit and maintain that salvation based on our own merit. The security of our salvation, according to Paul, comes from the same



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place as the receiving of that salvation. Therefore, Christians can have peace with God and peace with God's gift of salvation even though we continue to be sinners.

Paul goes on to say that Christians have a new standing with God, direct access, which was a foreign concept for the Jews. In Jewish thinking, the veil always separated the people (specifically, the priest) from God. Now, Paul is saying that believers have direct access into the presence of God. Why? Do we suddenly deserve it? Have we done something to earn it? No! We have access to God because we have become recipients of His grace. Our standing with God is a part of justification which is settled as a one time act of salvation. It won't get better! It won't get worse! A dirty child can still come into his father's presence despite being dirty. The dirt doesn't change the fact that he is his father's child.

The next thing Paul mentions is hope. Biblical hope should not be interpreted as "I hope so." It is a definite thing that we can know emphatically. Paul says we can rejoice that we can know God's glory. Not only that, he also says we can rejoice in the lessons of this life because they teach us patience, or perseverance. This produces Christian character. These are all blessings we did not have prior to receiving salvation. Paul then mentions that God has placed His Holy Spirit inside of us. Only the believer in Christ has the Spirit of God living inside of him. This gives us personal knowledge of the love of God and, through His Spirit, enables us to love Him. This is the power that enables the believer to live the Christian life, endure hardships, be fed by scripture, pray, and grow into Christ-likeness. In verse nine, Paul argues from lesser to greater. His argument is that if God saved us when we were ene-

mies, how much more will He do now that we're children? And if His death saved us, how much more will His life do for us in the future? Why is He willing to do all of this? Because we have been reconciled - brought back - to Him by an act of grace through faith in His Son, Jesus.

As we read verses 18 and 19, it would be easy to misinterpret a teaching of universal salvation, or the idea that everyone will eventually be saved. Go up to verse 17 for a clarification. Paul says that through the obedience of Jesus the free gift of God's salvation will reign in the lives of everyone who believes, not everyone in general.

What difference does salvation make? It gives us peace, access to God, hope for the future, the presence of God's Holy Spirit, eternal security, and reconciliation to God, and that's just the beginning!

Neal is the pastor of First Church, Quitman.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Have Assurance of Life after Death

John 11

By Ginger M. Caughman

"There is a time for everything... A time to be born and a time to die" (Ecc. 3:1-2). Do you believe that Jesus will resurrect believers as He has promised? Do you live in the power of the resurrection?

No healthy person wants to die. We don't want our loved ones to die, but don't be afraid of the topic of death. After we each face our own mortality we can then give evidence of God's assurance to others. Pray for an increased awareness of God's grace and a reassurance of the power of Jesus over death. Pray for God to speak to you by His Holy Spirit according to your need today.

How will you give evidence that you have assurance of eternal life? John 10 reminds us that real life in Christ is both

now and for eternity. In John 11 Jesus provides us assurance of life after death.

1. Life and Death. John 11: 1-16. Death is sometimes expected. Other times death shocks us by its suddenness. The loving presence and actions of Christian friends is needed in times of loss and grief. Please be careful to say only those things you would want to hear. God gives comfort by His Holy Spirit through His Word, His presence, prayer, and loving actions of His children. You've experienced the reality of the saying that "sharing doubles our joy and halves our sorrows." Christians need each other's assurance of the hope that's within us, Jesus' power over death.

Lazarus had died and Jesus received the report, but "the occasion produced the seventh sign of Jesus' deity. The raising



Caughman

of Lazarus was the climactic sign, showing that He is the Lord over death and the giver of life!" (Herschel H. Hobbs)

From the major application of this lesson, a personal story of courage and faith. When J. P. Morris, Jr. was diagnosed with terminal cancer, he told his family, "We will not be afraid. We will have faith and fear not!"

My Daddy had taught his children how to live by God's Word. In 1990, he taught us to face death, with faith. My mother was loyal to her commitment made before God and witnesses in 1937, when Dr. J. Norris Palmer tied tight the marriage vows. Her loving care was positive and constant. Hospice was a helpful ministry. Though part of our human existence, death can be approached with faith, acceptance and grace.

2. Life after Death. John 11: 17-27. I lived with Luke 24 for a year while working on a curriculum assignment following

my Daddy's death. Jesus explained the Scriptures to two disciples on the Emmaus road showing them that He is the Savior. Those eternal truths continue to comfort my life. We receive hope, comfort, and assurance in Jesus magnificent words in this week's Bible lesson (John 11:25-26). If you are presently mourning the loss of a loved one, you may be frustrated or perplexed like Martha. Read and reread your Bible until one passage speaks to you and comforts your heart. John 11 could be that Scripture.

3. Life Again. John 11:28-44. "John redefined death and life in relationship to Jesus. The account of Lazarus makes this point dramatically. The distinctive contribution of the New Testament is that it relentlessly defines human life, death and resurrection in light of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection" (Holman Bible Dictionary).

Herschel Hobbs gave us a moving illustration during the illness of his wife. She asked the beloved Southern Baptist writer his most difficult questions.

"Am I dying?" "Yes, darling."

"Why?" "I do not know."

Hobbs told his wife of 57 years: "All I can tell you is that I will hold your hand as long as I can, and when I can go no farther, Jesus hand will take hold and lead you through." These words were placed on her tombstone: "Absent from the body...present with the Lord" (2 Cor. 5: 8, KJV).

"Lazarus was only a sign of the resurrection whereas Jesus was the reality itself. The first man to be truly raised from the dead was not Lazarus but Jesus (1 Cor. 15:20-22). Lazarus faced death again whereas Jesus went beyond death to transcend forever its dominion over life (Rom. 6:9). Jesus said: 'I am the resurrection and the life' " (John 11:25). (William Hull, The Broadman Bible Commentary).

Have assurance of life after death and the promises of Jesus. Always remember: "In Christ all will be made alive!" (1 Cor. 15:22b). Amen.

Caughman is a member of First Church, Magee.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats,



no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the **who, what, when, where** details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

Union University slammed by tornado

JACKSON, Tenn. (BP) — In a matter of minutes, trees were uprooted, power lines fell, glass broke, and shingles were hurled across Baptist-

affiliated Union University's campus in Jackson, Tenn.

The storm that ripped through north Jackson early Nov. 10 left several Union students without homes and caused structural damage to several buildings, but no one was hurt and all students were accounted for.

"I can't believe all the folks at Union are okay. There was a Union student over here and they said we had a lot of people praying last night — someone was watching over them," said Heather Pattysen, general manager of T.J. Mulligans, which is located across the street from Union.

Approximately 600-700 students were on campus when the storm hit, while 1,100 were off campus, Union spokeswoman Sara Horn said.

"We were in there," said Nathan Robertson, 20, of Buffalo, N.Y., pointing to the men's residence commons building. "The building shook and things started falling from the

ceiling, so we jumped under the ping pong table. It was awful."

By Sunday evening, less than 500 students remained on campus; many went home or off campus, and the university made arrangements for 45 students to stay in a local hotel.

For those staying on campus, the Jackson chapter of the American Red Cross and West Jackson Church provided an evening meal and drinks.

As of Sunday evening, no dollar estimates had been released relating to damage. Insurance adjusters visited the campus on Nov. 11, Horn said.

Union officials evacuated Blythe Hall, one of the buildings located in the women's housing complex, due to structural damage. The women's complex consists of eight dorm room buildings and one commons building, which sustained major window damage.

"We just got back from Starbucks, and I started to do the dishes and we heard the alarm, so I grabbed my jacket and we went downstairs," said Emily Jonas, 21, a junior.

Jonas said students living in upstairs dorm rooms were urged to go to a downstairs

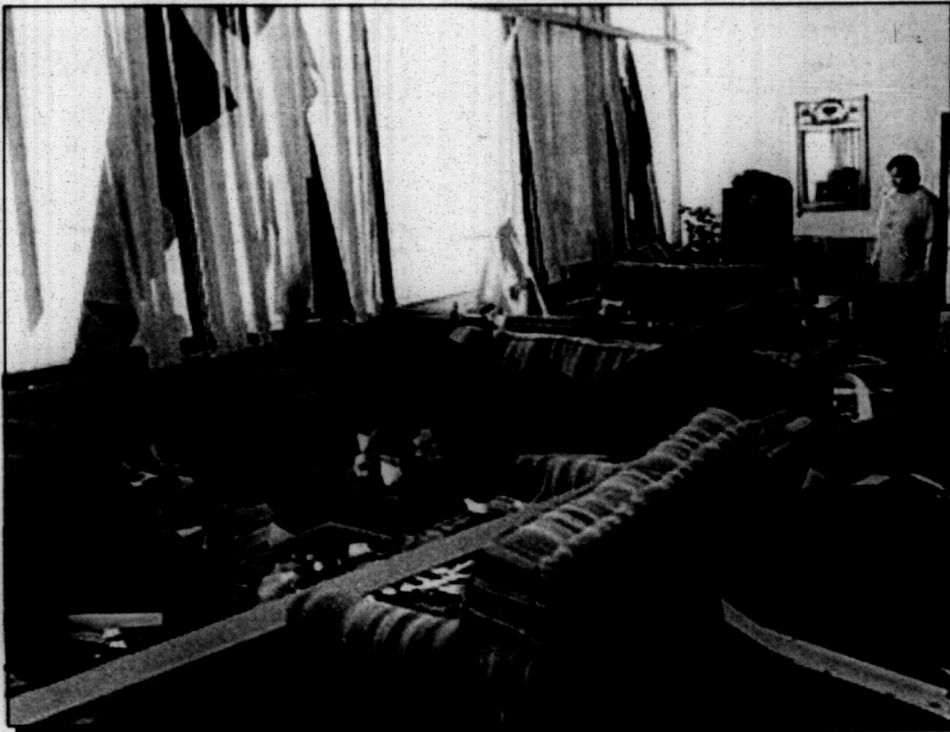
room during storms. "The walls started shaking, and we all crammed in and had pillows over our heads. I got really scared, and my heart was beating really fast. I didn't know the girl sitting by me well but I grabbed her leg, and we started to pray."

Jonas and seven others were in the dorm room bathroom. Later, Jonas found her room in the same condition it was before the storm, but "my roommate's looked like a train wreck; there was glass all over the room," she said.

The campus lost power around midnight Nov. 9, and it was restored at 5:15 p.m. Sunday evening. Building damage was visible on the Greek organization houses, all three residence complexes, and Hammons Hall, which houses a LifeWay Christian Store.

Horn estimates that 500 cars in the university's parking lots have been damaged, some totaled by fallen trees and power lines.

"It was amazing, and when I saw my car windows I started crying," said Katie Grashot, 19, of Millington, a sophomore political science major.



TORNADO'S DESTRUCTION — Pam Schock, residence director for Hurt Commons on the campus of Baptist-affiliated Union University in Jackson, Tenn., surveys the damage done to the large windows in the Hurt Commons as a result of the tornado that hit the campus on Nov. 10. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

Southern Baptists elected in Nov. 5 balloting

WASHINGTON (BP) — All but one Southern Baptist incumbent in Congress won election Nov. 5, but that loss to another Southern Baptist undoubtedly provided encouragement for pro-life and pro-family groups.

Sen. Jean Carnahan (D, Mo.), a Southern Baptist who is pro-abortion, fell to conservative Republican Jim Talent in a race that helped give the GOP a majority in the Senate.

Following is a list of the election results for Southern Baptist incumbents in Congress. Vote totals are from the website of CNN and represent 99% or 100% of precincts reporting by 9 a.m. Eastern time Nov. 6.

The church cited for each incumbent is where he is a member. (Although there were three or more candidates in some races, only the vote totals for the top two finishers are provided.)

U.S. Senate

Kentucky — Sen. Mitch McConnell, Republican, Crescent Hill Church, Louisville, seeking fourth term, defeated Lois Combs Weinberg, Democrat, 721,379-399,143, 64-36%.

Mississippi — Sen. Thad Cochran, Republican, Northminster Church, Jackson, seeking fifth term, defeated Shawn O'Hara, Reform, 521,482-94,096, 85-15%.

Missouri — Jim Talent, Republican, defeated Sen. Jean Carnahan, Democrat, First Church, Rolla, seeking first full term, 931,423-907,892, 50-49%.

U.S. House of Representatives

Alabama — Rep. Terry Everett, Republican, Second District, First Church, Enterprise, seeking sixth term, defeated Charles Woods, Democrat, 129,208-55,483, 69-29%.

Rep. Spencer Bachus, R., Sixth District, Hunter Street Church, Hoover, seeking sixth term, defeated J. Holden McAllister, Libertarian, 178,544-19,636, 90-10%.

Arkansas — Rep. John Boozman, Republican, Third District, First Church, Rogers, seeking first full term, was unopposed.

Georgia — Rep. Nathan Deal, Republican, Ninth District, First Church, Gainesville, seeking sixth term, was unopposed.

Kentucky — Rep. Ron Lewis, Republican, Second District, White Mills Church, White Mills, seeking sixth term, defeated David Williams, Democrat, 122,244-51,607, 70-29%.

Rep. Harold Rogers, Republican, Fifth District, First Church, Somerset, seeking 12th term, defeated Sidney Bailey, Democrat, 134,948-37,682, 78-22%.

Rep. Ernie Fletcher, Republican, Sixth District, Porter Memorial Church, Lexington, seeking third term, defeated Gatewood Galbraith, Independent, 115,522-41,853, 72-26%.

Maryland — Rep. Steny Hoyer, Democrat, Fifth District, Broadview Church, Temple

Hills, seeking 12th term, defeated Joseph Crawford, Republican, 133,819-58,247, 70-30%.

Mississippi — Rep. Roger Wicker, Republican, First District, First Church, Tupelo, seeking fifth term, defeated Rex Weathers, Democrat, 92,245-30,975, 71-24%.

Rep. Charles (Chip) Pickering Jr., Republican, Third District, First Church, Laurel, seeking fourth term, defeated Rep. Ronnie Shows, Democrat, 137,718-74,878, 64-35%. (The race between incumbents was produced by redistricting.)

Missouri — Rep. Richard Gephardt, Democrat, Third District, Third Church, St. Louis, (House minority leader) seeking 14th term, defeated Catherine Enz, Republican, 121,833-80,375, 59-39%.

Rep. Sam Graves, Republican, Sixth District, First Church, Tarkio, seeking second term, defeated Cathy Rinehart, Democrat, 131,155-73,175, 63-35%.

Rep. Roy Blunt, Republican, Seventh District, Second Church, Springfield, seeking fourth term, defeated Ron Lapham, Democrat, 149,489-45,952, 75-23%.

North Carolina — Rep. Charles Taylor, Republican, 11th District, First Church, Brevard, seeking seventh term, defeated Sam Neill, Democrat, 111,364-85,751, 56-43%.

Oklahoma — Rep. Brad Carson, Democrat, Second District, First Church, Claremore, seeking second term, defeated Kent Pharoah, Republican, 146,310-51,678, 74-26%.

Rep. Frank Lucas, Republican, Sixth District, First Church, Cheyenne, seeking sixth term, defeated Robert Murphy, Libertarian, 148,206-47,884, 76-24%.

South Carolina — Rep. Henry Brown, Republican, First District, Cooper River Church, North Charleston, seeking second term, defeated James Dunn, United Citizens, 125,277-9,675, 90-7%.

Tennessee — Rep. William Jenkins, Republican, First District, First Church, Rogersville, seeking fourth term, was unopposed.

Rep. Zach Wamp, Republican, Third District, Red Bank Church, Chattanooga, seeking fifth term, defeated John Wolfe, Democrat, 110,594-57,802, 65-34%.

Texas — Rep. Max Sandlin, Democrat, First District, First Church, Marshall, seeking fourth term, defeated John Lawrence, Republican, 85,943-66,863, 56-44%.

Rep. Jim Turner, Democrat, Second District, First Church, Crockett, seeking fourth term, defeated Van Brookshire, Republican, 85,108-53,179, 61-38%.

Rep. Tom DeLay, Republican, 22nd District, First Church, Sugar Land, (House majority whip) seeking 10th term, defeated Tim Riley, Democrat, 100,024-55,570, 63-35%.

Virginia — Randy Forbes, Republican, Fourth District, Great Bridge Church, Chesapeake, seeking second term, was unopposed.

Bibliocipher

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TM MQZ RAXLCPZ XW
YXO MQAXGYQ
GFJZSCZW; JGM HTP
PMAFY CF WTCMQ,
YBCBFY YXAI MX XYO.
AXLTFP WXGA: MHZFMI

Clue: X=O

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: First Timothy One:Five